Year	No. of Pilgrims	Expenditure incurred from Govt. account (In Rs. crores)
1993	25205	25.59
1994	25685	24.43
1995	31000	17.05

Funds for Four Lane Project on National Highway-47

1689. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted for four lane project on NH 47 between Alwaye and Arroor;

(b) the amount spent on the project as on date:

(c) the cost of the project and by when it will be completed;

(d) whether the progress of the project is as per schedule;

(e) the authority which is executing this project;

(f) whether any review of the project has taken place in the past; if so, when and what are its findings; and

(g) what steps are being taken for speedy implementation of this project as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The work of four laning and strengthening of Alwaye-Arroor-Sherthalai Section of NH-47 in Kerala is presently under execution with Asian Development Bank Loan assistance at an estimated sanctioned cost of Rs. 03.97 Crores and is targetted or completion by December, 1997. The total cumlative expenditure upto 30.9.95 is reported to be Rs. 22.016 crores. An amount of Rs. 20.00 Crores has been allotted for the work during the current financial year (1995-96).

(d) to (g) The State Government of Kerala is the executing agency of the project. The Project is being reviewed regularly by the State Public Works Department, the Ministry and the Asian Development Bank. Last review meeting was held in the Ministry in September, 1995. It was noted that the progress is behind schedule because of non-completion of pre-construction activities, delayed mobilisation by the contractor and extended monsoon period in the project area. Steps have been taken to expedite the completion of pre-construction activities and contractor's mobilisation.

Migration of Gir lions

1690. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lions from natural habitat in the Gir area are migrating to places in the coastal belt from the Sasan Gir sanctuary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the migrating Gir lions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dispersal of population is a natural phenomenon in a territorial species like lion due to increase in its numbers and improvement of habitat conditions in pheripheral areas.

(c) The lions inhabiting areas outside Gir are being provided full protection and their movement is being monitored constantly by the forest and wildlife staff. Awareness is also being generated among the local people about these straying lions.